

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of the Claims:

Claims 1-25 (cancelled).

Claim 26 (currently amended) A method for making a stabilized fruit pulp composition comprising the steps of:

- a) harvesting fruit about 1 to 4 weeks prior to being ripe;
- b) storing the harvested fruit in a dark room at a temperature from about 10°C to about 35°C for less than about 1.5 weeks;
- c) in no particular order, peeling, depitting or coring, if necessary, the fruit and cutting or mashing the fruit to produce fruit pulp, the pulp comprising chunks having dimensions of from 1x1x1mm to 15x15x15mm;
- d) mixing the fruit pulp ~~flesh~~ with about 0.01 to about 5.0% by weight acidulant to produce an acidulant and fruit pulp ~~flesh~~ mixture;
- e) heating the acidulant and fruit pulp ~~flesh~~ mixtures to a temperature ~~not over about~~ from about 30°C to a temperature of about 90°C for less than from about 10 seconds to about 3.5 4 minutes;

wherein the fruit pulp has a hardness factor of at least 300 dynes prior to heating; and the fruit comprises avocado.

Claim 27 (canceled)

Claim 28 (previously presented) The method for making a stabilized fruit pulp composition according to claim 26, wherein the stabilized fruit pulp composition comprises from about 50.0 to about 99.0% by weight water; fruit pulp; 0.1 to about 40.0% by weight oil; substantially no quality detrimental enzyme activity after heating.

Claim 29 (previously presented) The method according to claim 26, wherein the stabilized fruit pulp composition comprises from about 75.0 to about 99.0% by weight water; fruit pulp; 0.1 to about 20.0% by weight oil.

Claim 30 (previously presented) The method according to claim 26, where the fruit is subjected to storage conditions of relative humidity between about 40-70% before being heated.

Claim 31 (canceled)

Claim 32 (previously presented) The method according to claim 26, wherein the chunks have dimensions of from about 2x2x2mm to about 10x10x10mm.

Claim 33 (previously presented) A method for making a stable puree composition, comprising the step of adding the stabilized fruit pulp composition prepared according to claim 26 to a composition comprising a thickening base to produce a stable puree composition.

Claim 34 (previously presented) The method according to claim 33, wherein the stable puree composition has a viscosity from about 18,000 to about 30,000 centipoise.

Claim 35 (previously presented) The method according to claim 33, wherein the stable puree composition has a pH from at least about 3.0 to less than or equal to about 7.0.

Claim 36 (previously presented) The method according to claim 33, wherein the stable puree composition is used as a dressing, dip, spread, cooking additive or baking additive.

Claim 37 (previously presented) The method according to claim 33, wherein the stable puree composition further comprises food grade flavoring, food grade coloring, protein powder, preservative, emulsifier, acid, spices, texturizing agent or a mixture thereof.